



Summer Summary 2015

The Beacon

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency



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Disaster DR-4225

28 Counties Get Declaration

Disaster Declaration No. DR 4225 pictures from May 6-June 17 — clockwise from top left:

1. Saunders County debris;
2. Gage County flooding;
3. Richardson County flooding;
4. Dundy County road washed out by floods
5. Thayer County bridge destroyed by floods. See more pictures and information on this disaster pages 3-5.

A Season of Change



A Message from
Bryan Tuma
NEMA Assistant Director



York County Flooding, June 2015



Tecumseh TERREX tabletop,
September 2015



EM 101, August 2015



Chris Van Alstyne, left, and Bryan
Tuma at the JFO, August 2015



Earl Imler, left, and Donny Christensen
lead the Operations Section and
Recovery Section, respectively.

This summer has been a busy time for Nebraska Emergency Management Agency staff as we have focused on disaster recovery, community outreach, planning, exercise and training.

NEMA, along with local, state and federal partners, responded to severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds, flooding, avian flu, and fire, as well as a variety of training and exercises, including our annual statewide exercise, TERREX, a continuity of operations exercise, Emergency Management Basic Academy and Emergency Management 101 training.

We are working in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), at joint field office (JFO) in Lincoln, to coordinate the recovery from the federally-declared disaster, DR-4225, involving severe weather and floods in May and June. **Chris Van Alstyne**, who has worked on previous disasters in Nebraska, was named federal coordinating officer. He is leading a team that numbered as many as 176 staff. They are working with local officials to complete applications to receive federal reimbursement for repairs made as a result of damage incurred by the disaster.

Gov. Pete Ricketts also signed a state of emergency declaration to address an avian influenza outbreak in Nebraska's poultry sector. While the Nebraska Department of Agriculture took the lead on the response, NEMA conducted coordination meetings of state agencies as outlined in the State Emergency Operations Plan. I especially want to extend my appreciation to the local emergency managers who supported our efforts throughout this experience. It was a good test of our animal disease response plan.

A continuity of operations exercise conducted by the Nebraska Military Department provided significant lessons learned for all involved. Staff relocated from our offices to various locations. In the event we would need to conduct our work from outside of our offices, we are now better prepared to meet that challenge.

The focus of this year's annual TERREX exercise was a Bakken Crude Oil response with seminars and tabletop exercises that allowed local responders to walk through a response to a shale oil rail incident, should it occur in their community. This has been a great opportunity to talk about the increased prevalence of this hazardous material.

A big change this summer has been reorganization at NEMA, which was done in an effort to align personnel resources with the changing demands placed on the agency. While many of the day-to-day duties of individual staff have not changed, the reorganization has focused on refining agency performance. The most noticeable organizational change is the division of the Response and Recovery Section into two sections: operations and recovery.

Earl Imler is now Operations Section manager and will work with the staff that is primarily assigned to first respond when the state is called to provide state assistance in local disasters. **Donny Christensen** was promoted to Recovery Section manager from public assistance unit supervisor, and will lead the section which will focus on public assistance and hazard mitigation. This reorganization is intended to help NEMA continue its efforts as a results-oriented and purpose-driven agency that supports all facets of emergency management in the state of Nebraska.



State Gets Disaster Declaration for 28 Counties

Incident: Severe Storms, Tornadoes, Straight-line Winds, and Flooding

Incident Period: May 6-June 17, 2015

Date of Request: June 12, 2015

Declared: June 25, 2014

FCO: Christian Van Alstyne, FEMA National FCO Program

SCO: Earl Imler, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

Designations and Types of Assistance:

INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE: (Assistance to individuals and households): Not Requested by Governor.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE: (Assistance for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities): Adams, Arthur, Box Butte, Cass, Clay, Dawes, Dundy, Fillmore, Gage, Hamilton, Hayes, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Lincoln, Morrill, Nehama, Nuckolls, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson, Saline, Saunders, Seward, Sioux, Thayer, Wayne and York counties.

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM: (Assistance for actions taken to prevent or reduce long-term risk to life and property from natural hazards): All counties in the State of Nebraska are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

Incident Summary:

- May 6-17: Nebraska was impacted by a series of severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds and flooding.
- Impacts were dispersed throughout the state, with counties ranging from Morrill in the western portion to Cass in the eastern portion of Nebraska having been affected.
- The storms caused extensive damage to public infrastructure, including roads and bridges.

Notable Events:

- May 7: **Gov. Pete Ricketts** declares a state of emergency and approves a state disaster declaration for counties in southeastern Nebraska.
- Nebraska State Patrol troops were actively assisting with road closures, rescue operations and providing situational awareness with helicopter flights over affected areas.
- Engineers with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Dam Safety Program worked with the local Nebraska resource districts (NRD) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to monitor the dams in Saline, Fillmore, Thayer, Jefferson and Lancaster Counties.
- DNR's Dam Safety Program inspected five dams in Saline and Jefferson Counties in the hardest hit areas where rainfall totals exceeded 10 inches. The dams were found to be performing optimally, holding back thousands of acre-feet of floodwater with no significant problems.
- May 14: Gov. Ricketts requests U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) conduct damage assessments in Jefferson, Saline and Thayer counties.
- May 18: Gov. Ricketts requests FEMA participation in joint preliminary damage assessments (PDAs) for public assistance (PA).
- May 22: Gov. Ricketts requests a disaster declaration from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to help storm-impacted homeowners, renters and business owners access low-interest disaster loans.
- May 27: SBA grants a disaster declaration for Saline, Thayer, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Lancaster, Nuckolls, Seward and York counties.

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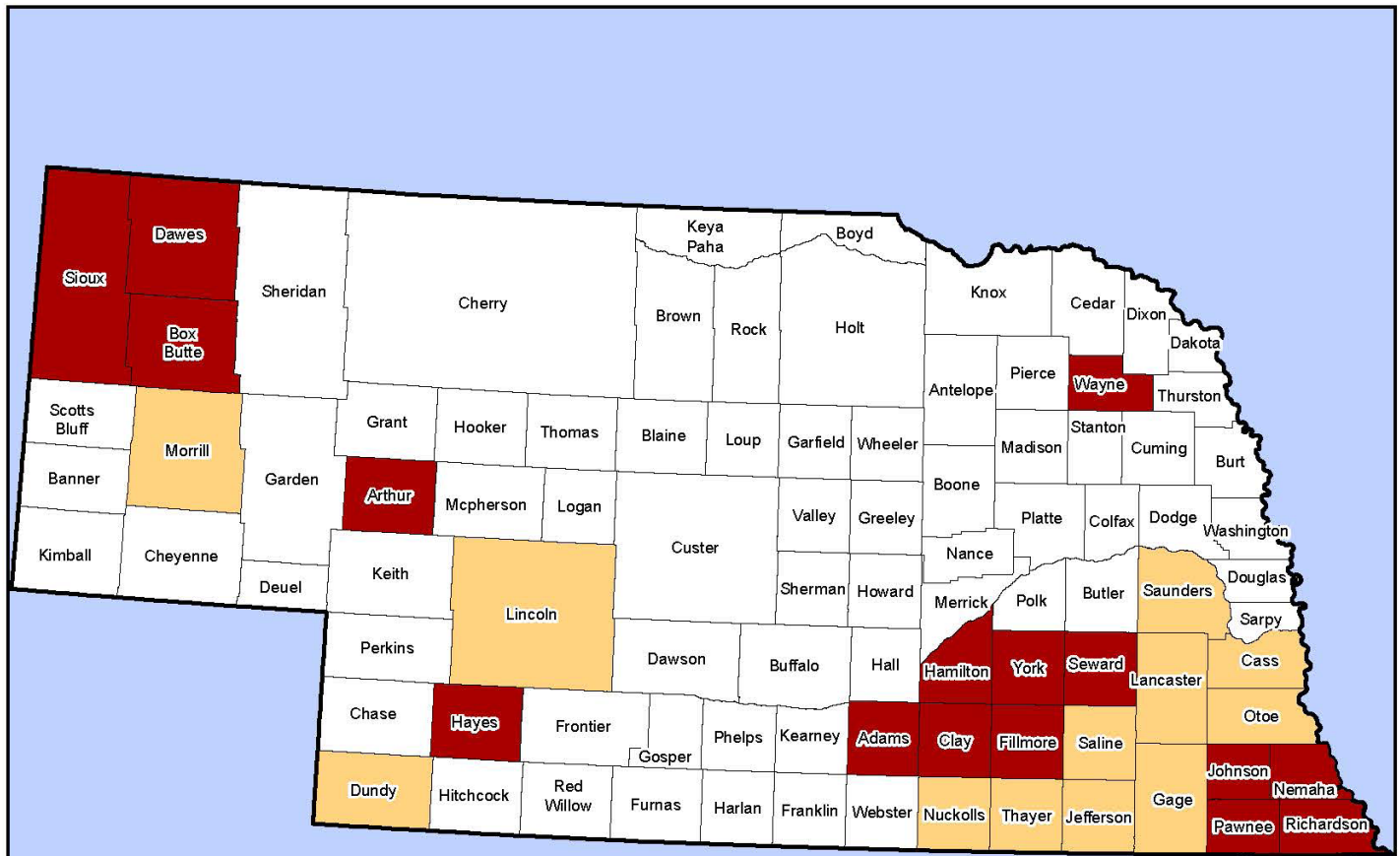
Disaster 4225 Notable Events ... CONTINUED

- June 12: Gov. Ricketts requests a major disaster declaration for 12 counties in Nebraska for the May 6th-June 17th event.
- June 25: President Barack Obama issues a major disaster declaration for the state of Nebraska as a result of the May 6-June 17 storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds, and flooding; making the counties of Cass, Dundy, Gage, Jefferson, Lancaster, Lincoln, Morrill, Nuckolls, Otoe, Saline, Saunders and Thayer Counties eligible for state and federal assistance to repair or replace disaster-damaged public infrastructure.
- Aug. 14: The disaster declaration is amended to include the following counties: Adams, Arthur, Box Butte, Clay, Dawes, Fillmore, Hamilton, Hayes, Johnson, Nehama, Pawnee, Richardson, Seward, Sioux, Wayne, and York.
- Sept. 3: NEMA Recovery Section staff complete applicant briefings for all counties.

FEMA-4225-DR, Nebraska Disaster Declaration 6/25/2015 Requested Add-on Counties 7/8/2015



FEMA



Data Layer/Map Description:
The types of assistance that have been designated for selected areas in the State of Nebraska.

All designated areas in the State of Nebraska are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

Designated Counties

- No Designation
- Public Assistance
- Requested Add-on Counties
07/08/2015



Disaster Photos

1. Gage County flooding;
 2. Cass County flooding;
 3. Adams County flooding;
 4. Clay County flooding;
 - 5 & 6. Jefferson County during flooding and after;
 7. Lincoln County flooding;
 8. Jefferson County flooding;
 9. Fillmore County flooding;
 10. Scotts Bluff County flooding.
- Many thanks to the local emergency management directors who provided flooding photos for this page and the cover.*



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Photo Captions

1. Nebraska's congressional delegation staffers tour the joint field office (JFO) in Lincoln;
- 2 & 3. A congressional briefing was held at the JFO in Lincoln to update staff on disaster 4225;
4. Bridge damage in Nuckholls County;
5. Donny Christensen, NEMA Recovery Section manager, consults with Joe Kaufman and Mark South of the Federal Emergency Management Agency at the JFO in Lincoln.
6. Road damage in Dundy County;
7. Lincoln County road damage;
8. NEMA's Donny Christensen updates applicants in Lancaster County on how to file for public assistance funds for repair of damage suffered during the disaster; briefings were held in or near all affected counties.
8. Lincoln County, road damage
9. Jefferson County road erosion.



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JUN 2 2015



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Gary Vandenbos, SEAT manager, and pilot Paul Arey get ready for a run during the Lone Tree Fire.



The single engine air tanker (SEAT) and its associated support equipment at the SEAT Base at the Chadron Airport.

Lone Tree Fire Burns Nearly 1,800 Acres

Disaster Declaration Issued

A wind-driven wildfire in Dawes County east of the village of Whitney burned nearly 1,800 acres of grassland Sept. 15 while firefighters from five volunteer fire departments, the U.S. Forest Service and two single engine air tankers (SEAT) worked to extinguish the blaze.

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency authorized use of the SEAT to fight the fire at the request of Region 23 Emergency Management Director **Nan Gould**. Due to the size and speed of the fire, the SEAT out of Hot Springs, S.D. was also requested.

Acting Gov. **Mike Foley** signed an

emergency declaration to pay for disaster response out of the Governor's emergency fund. Gov. **Pete Ricketts** was out of the country on a trade mission to Japan when the fire occurred.

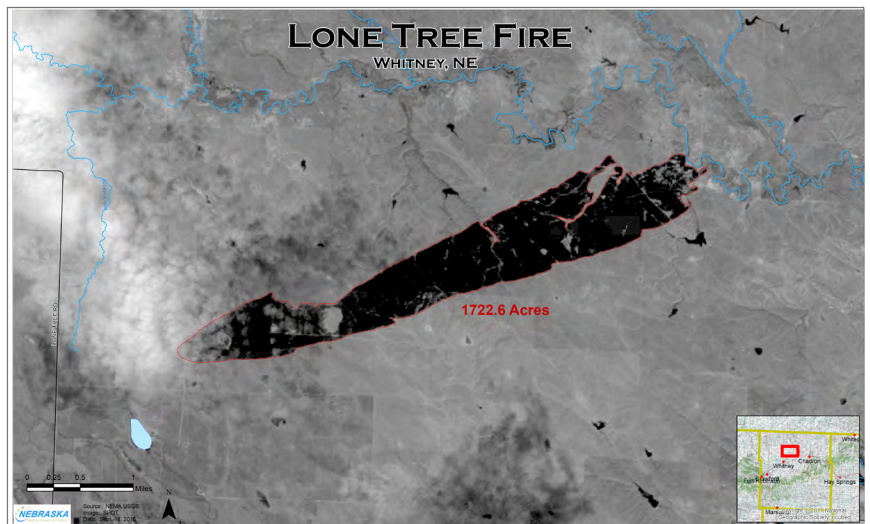
"This was a wind-driven event," said Chadron Volunteer Fire Department Chief **Pat Gould**. "The wind was primarily out of the southwest, however it kept switching directions. It pushed the fire northeast through some pretty tall grass."

Incident Commander **Brian Prosser**, chief of the Crawford Volunteer Fire Department reported that a mechanical failure on a hay baler was the likely

cause of the fire.

Crawford, Chadron, Rushville, Hay Springs and Olerichs, S.D. volunteer fire departments responded and spent approximately four hours working the fire. The U.S. Forest Service provided additional engines and Dawes County maintenance used maintainers and water tenders to prevent the fire from spreading. The fire was contained by 6 p.m.

The Nebraska SEAT will be on call through at least Oct. 1 to respond to elevated fire risk in the region according to NEMA Assistant Director **Bryan Tuma**.



Above: A satellite image of the area burned in the Lone Tree Fire on Sept. 15. The fire was extinguished with the help of 10 runs by the Nebraska and South Dakota single engine air tankers and the work of five volunteer fire departments.

Left, Chadron firefighter Nevin Price and single engine air tanker (SEAT) manager trainees Seth Petersen and Leo Larkin discuss fire tactics as Ty Thoreson with New Frontier Aviation loads fire retardant into the SEAT at Chadron Airport as the Lone Tree Fire burns in the background.

NEMA Supports State Response to Avian Flu

Gov. Pete Ricketts signed a state of emergency declaration to address the outbreak of avian influenza in Nebraska's poultry sector in May. The governor, in consultation with Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) Director **Greg Ibach**, issued the declaration in order to ensure the availability of resources for the state agencies who worked in northeast Nebraska on the avian influenza response.

While the NDA took a lead on the response, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency:

- Conducted coordination meetings of state agencies as per the State Emergency Operations Plan, and served as liaison with the Governor's Office;
- Served as the liaison with county and other local emergency response coordinators;
- Provided resource support as requested, and
- Coordinated with and directed the efforts of other state agencies.

Ibach reported the depopulation of birds with, or exposed to, highly pathogenic H5N2 avian influenza (HPAI) in Dixon County was complete at the end of June.



The State Emergency Operations Center at NEMA was opened for Emergency Support Function representatives to discuss the state response to the avian influenza outbreak.

A total of 4.9 million laying hens and pullets were humanely depopulated and composted at five farms owned and operated by the same producer in Dixon County.

"I personally want to thank our staff for their hard work, dedication and long hours they put in to help prevent further spread of the virus," Ibach said. "I also want to thank those within several key organizations who played a critical part in the response."

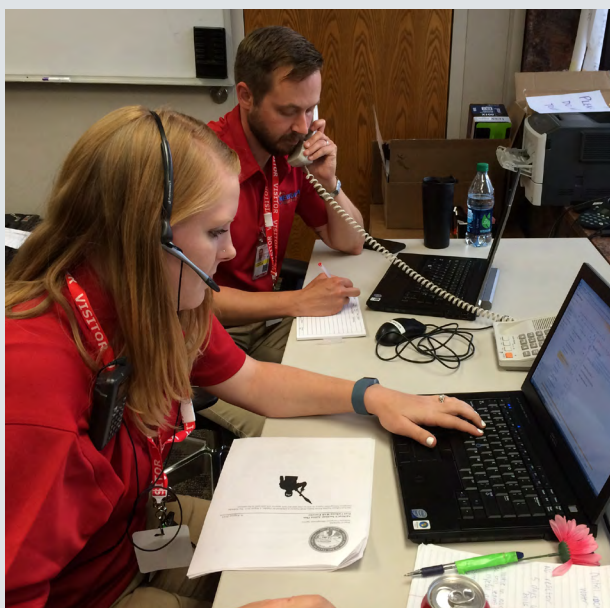
Ibach said the emergency declaration gave NEMA, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, Nebraska State Patrol, Nebraska Department of Roads and the Nebraska Department

of Health and Human Services additional flexibility to play vital roles in assisting NDA.

He said county emergency management teams were instrumental in daily operations in Dixon and Knox counties.

"Our federal partners at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) were also a critical component to the success of the depopulation and the cleaning and disinfection efforts," Ibach said. "I'd like to thank each of these partners for their support and contributions to addressing this disease."

More information on HPAI can be found at: www.nda.nebraska.gov.



Radiological Exercise Held at Ft. Calhoun

Above: Joint Information Center (JIC) representatives speak to mock media in an evaluated hostile-action-based exercise, Aug. 4, for the Ft. Calhoun Nuclear Station.

Left: NEMA's Molly Bargmann and Ryan Lowry work as part of the JIC staff for the exercise.

Acting Gov. Foley Presents 2015 Be Prepared Awards

Lincoln—Acting Gov. **Mike Foley** announced the recipients of this year's Be Prepared Awards, recognizing volunteers and community organizations for excellence in emergency preparedness and disaster response.

He was joined by **Ryan Lowry** representing award sponsors Nebraska Citizen Corps, which is part of Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center.

Presented during Nebraska Preparedness Month, the Be Prepared awards program is in its eighth year of honoring Nebraskans who volunteer their time and energy to support preparedness in Nebraska communities.

"Emergency preparedness is an essential part of public safety in our state and our country," Foley said. "The Nebraskans being honored today are investing in the well-being of our citizens by providing educational training and volunteer support. Their efforts instill confidence in our communities to be ready for the unexpected, and we commend them for their leadership."

Kimberly Neiman of Pilger was presented with the Local Hero Award, recognizing extraordinary service and leadership in helping residents in an emergency situation. As the village clerk in Pilger, Neiman played an



Ashley Mueller, disaster education coordinator for the University of Nebraska Extension, of Fremont, received an Excellence in Community Preparedness Award for her efforts to enhance community readiness.

important role in the response and recovery process following the 2014 tornado that devastated her community. In the days, weeks, and months that followed, her quality of leadership never wavered. The residents of Pilger responded with a renewed sense of purpose to move forward and rebuild. Her dedication to making sure her community is resilient makes her a true local hero.

Ashley Mueller of Fremont received an Excellence in Community Preparedness Award for creating a stronger community through preparedness planning and disaster preparation to enhance community readiness and



Kyler Johnson, a student at Lincoln North Star High School, earned the Excellence in Risk Communication Award for his work disseminating weather information via social media.

resilience. Mueller use her position as disaster education coordinator for the University of Nebraska Extension to reach out to Nebraskans and ensure they are prepared for any disaster situation. She coordinated the 2015 Nebraska Disaster Preparedness Summit, facilitated preparedness workshops for 4-H groups, and is helping to develop local community organizations active in disaster (COAD). Her efforts have made communities across the state better prepared for any disaster or emergency.

Kyler Johnson of Lincoln earned the Excellence in Risk Communication Award, which recognizes an individual who demonstrates superior efforts in raising awareness of risks and hazards in their community. Johnson is a student at Lincoln North Star High School and has gained a reputation at Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) as the expert on weather-related events. He has devoted time and energy into learning about meteorology and severe weather. He uses several forms of social media and technology to disseminate information to the community through his Nebraska Storm Hunters website.

The **Grand Island Teen CERT** received the Excellence in Preparedness Education and Outreach Award, which honors an individual or group



Ryan Lowry, Citizen Corps coordinator, left, and Acting Gov. **Mike Foley**, right, present **Kimberly Neiman**, village clerk of Pilger, with the Local Hero Award.

demonstrating a commitment and dedication to the safety of the public by volunteering to train, educate, and promote preparedness. The Grand Island Teen CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) was established to provide basic disaster preparedness education to youth in the Grand Island area. These volunteers have gone well beyond just learning about preparedness. Teen CERT volunteers have attended several statewide trainings, where they've participated alongside other volunteer responders, and community events to help spread a message of preparedness. Their association with Teen CERT helps foster an appreciation for volunteering that will carry them into adulthood.

The Citizen Corps Partner Program of the Year Award was presented to the **University of Nebraska - Lincoln Student Involvement** for a significant commitment to create strong partnerships with other preparedness organizations. The University of Nebraska – Lincoln is preparing to host its third ReadyCampus event later this month. ReadyCampus is a student-focused emergency preparedness event for secondary education institutions. The Office of Student Involvement has been a key in the success of this event. The group involved local, state, and federal preparedness organizations to participate, which encouraged student interaction at the event.



Veronia Reipe, center, with UNL Student Involvement, accepted the Citizen Corps Partner Program of the Year Award.



The Grand Island Teen CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) received the Excellence in Preparedness Education and Outreach Award. Grand Island/Hall County Emergency Management Director, Jon Rosenlund, left, sponsors the group.

Phyllis Dutton of Omaha received the Citizen Corps Volunteer of the Year Award, recognizing her outstanding commitment to the Eastern Nebraska/Western Iowa Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) program. Phyllis is the coordinator for the Omaha Metropolitan Medical Response System. Over the past

year, she has taken a prominent role in her local MRC by working closely with local emergency managers, public health departments, and community leaders to find volunteer opportunities for MRC members. She has helped to coordinate public health screenings, first aid stations for local events, and assisted with numerous trainings and exercises. Phyllis

consistently promotes preparedness principles throughout her community through her involvement with the Medical Reserve Corps.

Gov. Pete Rickett was unable to attend the event because he was on an international trade mission to Japan and China.



Phyllis Dutton, center, coordinator of the Omaha Metropolitan Medical Response System, received the Citizen Corps Volunteer of the Year Award from Ryan Lowry of Citizen Corps, left, and Acting Gov. Mike Foley.

Sept. 30 is National PrepareAthon! Day

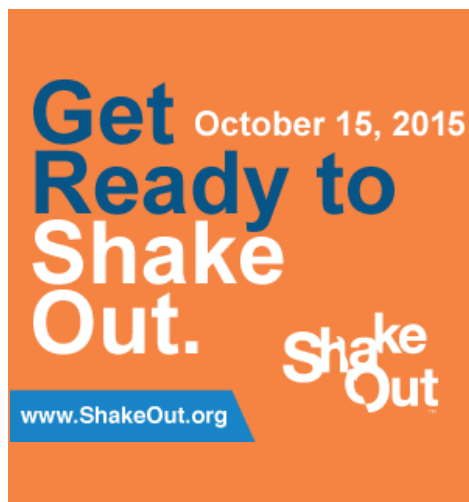
National PrepareAthon! Day on Sept. 30 closes out National Preparedness Month by offering a day to take action and prepare for disasters.

More than 21 million preparedness actions have been completed for America's PrepareAthon! since January 2015. This national campaign prepares people for earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, and winter storms.

Need preparedness ideas? Check out the [10 Ways to Participate in America's PrepareAthon!](#) infographic to learn more. You can also find out where preparedness events are happening in your community and join in. When you complete an activity, please be sure to add that activity to the campaign's website by either logging-in or creating a new account.

Individuals, families, communities, faith-based organizations, schools, and businesses are all encouraged to participate and prepare for the hazards that are common to their areas. Find How to Prepare guides, Playbooks, and other valuable resources to get started. These tools are also available in Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, French, Japanese, and Tagalog.

Get ready for National PrepareAthon! Day. Be Smart. Take Part. Prepare.



Risk Communication Class Held

Above: NEMA's Technical Hazard Section offered risk communication training, with Ron Edmond (standing top picture), through the U.S. Dept. of Energy and the Western Governors' Association, and hosted by Union College. Edmond is a senior manager for the Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) National Security Emergency Management Program (NSEMP).

Union College Rep. Honored

Left: Rick Young (left) chair, Emergency Management and Exercise Science, and director of the International Rescue and Relief program at Union College is pictured with Jon Schwarz, NEMA Technical Hazards Section manager after he received a certificate of appreciation for his assistance with the training.





Bohac Honors NEMA Staff

Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac, left, honored Dave Reisen, training and exercise unit supervisor, Sue Krogman, information technology and communications unit supervisor, and Chad Boshart, inset right, GIS coordinator, with one of his coins for their work to make the continuity of operations exercise a success. Reisen work with the exercise design team to develop the scenario and exercise objectives while Krogman and Boshart tested the facilities back and emergency power systems



Virtual Tabletop Held Across Nebraska

A virtual tabletop exercise (VTTX), hosted by the Nebraska Extension and NEMA, was facilitated by FEMA and focused on an agricultural disaster at a county fair. It was offered in several communities across the state including (clockwise from top left) Norfolk, Lincoln, Wahoo, Kearney and Scottsbluff. The VTTX involved key personnel discussing simulated scenarios in an informal setting, to assess plans, policies, training, and procedures.





Academy Teaches Emergency Management Basics

The essentials of emergency management and fundamental elements of planning, responding, recovering and mitigating disasters were covered in a week-long class at Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, July 13-17.

The NEMA Basic Certification Course or “Basic Academy” included sessions on the history of emergency management, local and state emergency operations plans and the National Incident Management System. Coursework also included weather spotting, individual and public assistance, hazard mitigation, grant management, public information and social media.

One evening participants also had the opportunity to tour the University of Nebraska Memorial Stadiums emergency operations center.



Radiological Staff Attend Homeland Security Training

Afua Kwarteng, a NEMA radiological emergency preparedness (REP) planning specialist, and Alisia Lamay, a REP program specialist, recently completed training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), in Anniston Ala. The CDP is operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency, and is the only federally-charted weapons of mass destruction (WMD) training facility in the nation. The Radiological Series Train-the-Trainer (RAD TtT) is a four-day course designed for individuals, national or international, that the state has identified as part of a cadre of instructors and trainers responsible for providing radiological training in their jurisdictions. The course is designed to strengthen the capacity of trainers by applying principles of adult learning, training and facilitation of skills in practice training sessions. RAD TtT provides students with the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and networking opportunities needed to conduct meaningful training.



Cedar County Courthouse Holds Bomb Training

Sgt. Jud McKinstry of the Nebraska State Patrol explosive ordinance disposal team, presented bomb threat awareness training to Cedar County employees as part of a preparedness effort hosted by Cedar County Emergency Management. "The safety committee reviews the emergency plans periodically and determined our current plan was deficient," said Kevin Garvin, emergency management director. "There had never been training in recent history for courthouse staff or dispatch staff. We had great interest from the elected officials. Cedar County is due to update its local emergency operations plan next spring and updating our internal all-hazards plan is a good start to that process."



NEMA Hazard Mitigation Officer Mary Baker spoke during a Planning for Disaster and Emergency: Community Risk Assessment and Hazard Mitigation class at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in September. The class is facilitated by Jeff Henson of JEO Consulting Group and Dr. Zhenghong Tang, Ph.D, an associate professor in the Community and Regional Planning Program at UNL. Baker plans to give the class a tour of NEMA to encourage their interest in emergency management.

Military Department Exercises Continuity Plan

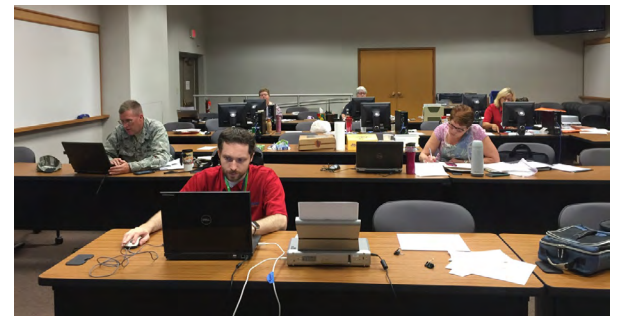
A Nebraska Military Department continuity of operation exercise in August tested the department's ability to work from alternate work sites during a disaster situation.

The exercise included moving the Joint Forces Command staff to the

Nebraska National Guard Readiness Center in Grand Island and the State Emergency Operations Center to the alternate SEOC, also in Grand Island.

NEMA also deployed mobile operations assets and assigned all staff to alternate work locations in Lincoln.

"It was a great opportunity for the agency to test our continuity of operations plan," said **Dave Reisen**, exercise and training unit supervisor. "It demonstrated our ability to be flexible in a disaster situation while achieving our operational and statutory objectives."



Nebraska Exercises Crude Oil Response

Annual TERREX Includes Series of Seminars, Tabletops and Rail

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is facilitating a series of seminars and tabletop exercises along the Bakken Crude Oil route in eastern Nebraska for its annual state-wide exercise, TERREX 2015.

The seminar series featured speakers from BNSF, Nebraska Department of Roads, Department of Environmental Quality, local hazmat responders and Nebraska Emergency Management Agency planners to help inform, prepare and educate local agencies on this unique hazard.

The seminars and trainings were held in Fremont, Tecumseh and Winnebago.

The seminars were followed by tabletop exercises in which local agencies and first responders exercised their plans in order to walk through a response to a shale oil (Bakken) rail incident.

“We hope this series of exercises provided local first responders and elected officials a better understanding and level of preparedness for the increased frequency of this hazardous material being transported through



First responders participate in a hazmat tabletop exercise in Tecumseh.

their communities” said **Dave Reisen**, NEMA exercise training unit supervisor.

The final piece of TERREX 2015 is a facilitated discussion between the emergency support function (ESF) coordinators at the state level and NEMA staff to identify how best to meet local

communities’ resource needs that were identified in the seminars and tabletop exercises.

“This series proved to be an outstanding way for locals to evaluate policies, plans and procedures for this type of disaster,” Reisen said.



Above: State Emergency Response Commission Coordinator Tonya Ngotel, seated right, talks with responders at a tabletop in Tecumseh.

Right: NEMA Exercise Training Officer Roger Conrad, standing, facilitates that tabletop in Tecumseh.



Has Your Business Developed A Disaster Preparedness Plan?

Every business should have a disaster preparedness program and conduct exercises to determine how quickly operations will be restored following a disaster. Conducting program exercises help improve the overall strength of a disaster plan and the ability of employees to perform their roles and responsibilities.

The Ready campaign outlines several types of exercises that can help you evaluate the effectiveness of your disaster preparedness program, including:

- Walkthroughs, workshops, or orientation seminars – Basic training for team members are designed to familiarize employees with emergency response, business conti-

nunity and crisis communications plans, and their roles and responsibilities as defined in the plans;

- Tabletop exercises – Discussion-based sessions where employees review their roles during an emergency and their responses to a particular emergency situation;
- Full-scale exercises – Take place on location using the specific equipment and personnel that would be called upon during a real disaster event. These exercises are conduct-

ed by public agencies and often include participation from local businesses; and

- Functional exercises – Allow personnel to validate plans and readiness by performing their duties in a simulated operational environment. Activities for a functional exercise are scenario-driven, such as the failure of a critical business function or for a specific hazard.

For more information, visit: www.ready.gov/business.





www.nema.nebraska.gov

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Governor Pete Ricketts

State Homeland Security Director

Lt. Governor Mike Foley

NEMA Director

Major General Daryl Bohac

Assistant Director

Bryan Tuma

NEMA is charged by Nebraska statute to reduce the vulnerabilities of the people and communities of Nebraska in terms of injury, loss of life and property damage resulting from natural, technological or man-made disasters and emergencies.

NEMA is responsible for coordinating the state response in any major emergency or disaster including the support of local governments as needed or requested, and coordinating assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal partners.

The Beacon

The Beacon is published six times a year and includes emergency management news and activities from across the state. Please forward story ideas or photos for inclusion to:

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NEMA Sponsors Annual NIPPC Conference

NEMA Preparedness Section Manager Nikki Weber, SERC Coordinator Tonya Ngotel and Dr. Sharon Medcalf, Co-Director for the Center for Preparedness Education at the Citizen Corps booth during the annual Nebraska Infrastructure Protection Conference in La Vista, where Nebraska leaders gathered to discuss ways to protect critical infrastructure and key assets.

An advertisement for building an emergency kit. It features a yellow flashlight, several yellow and blue batteries, a red and white first aid kit, and a clipboard with an "EMERGENCY PREP CHECKLIST". The text "BUILD YOUR KIT" is prominently displayed in blue. Below it, it says "Take action by building an emergency preparedness kit. Get tips at: ready.gov/kit" and "#NatlPrep". At the bottom, there are logos for FEMA, America's PrepareAthon!, Ready, and a "BE DISASTER AWARE" banner for September National Preparedness Month with the text "TAKE ACTION TO PREPARE".